



# Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's NEWSLETTER

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"Unsung Hero" George Mountjoy with I&E employees Susan Saufley (left) and Brenda Ward-Hill.

## I&E holds annual division staff meeting at Camp Webb

The Information and Education division held its annual staff meeting September 10-11 at Camp Webb. The staff meeting allowed division employees from around the state to interface, share ideas and air concerns.

"Discussing the strategic plan was an important component of the meeting," said Tim Slone, director of Information and Education division. "The take-home message was that every job in the agency is critical and we need to strive for excellence every day."

Several staff members received "Unsung Hero" awards that were nominated by fellow employees. Each nominee received a silver star pin in recognition of their efforts. Hunter Education Instructor George Mountjoy garnered the most nominations

for the "Unsung Hero."

Attendees also reviewed the past year's accomplishments of the Information and Education division and heard presentations about non-game such as snakes, insects, salamanders and an update from the fisheries division. The presentations gave Conservation Education Program Leaders a chance to update their curricula as they start a new school year. More than 68,000 Kentucky students will receive conservation education in schools this year.

An evening tournament of the popular bag toss game Corn Hole provided a chance to socialize. The team of Rick "The Buzz Saw" Hill and Bill "Bahama Mama" Fannin crushed the team of Jay "The Fossil" Webb and Rocky "The Hammer" Frost in the finals.

## I & E recognizes Chip Quarles for developing online camp registration program

The Information and Education division honored Chip Quarles at the division's annual staff meeting for his work developing a program to register summer camp participants online.

"The program took approximately a year to develop, fine tune and implement," said Tim Slone, director of the Information and Education division. "Public response has been overwhelmingly positive. Seventy-two percent of campers registered and paid their camp fees online this past summer in the first year of this program."

Quarles worked with the directors of Camp Webb, Camp Wallace and Camp Currie to

develop the Camp Manager Program. In addition to quick and easy online registration, the program allows for a quick refund to parents of campers who are unable to attend camp for illness or other reasons.

"The Camp Manager Program has resulted in increased productivity and efficiency allowing Conservation Education Program Leaders to spend more time in the classroom and less time shuffling paper," Slone said. "Chip was a pleasure to work with throughout the development process and was always willing to listen to the ideas or concerns of the camp directors."



Chip Quarles

## KDFWR welcomes 4 new employees

The Big Game Program welcomes Gabe Jenkins as the biologist in charge of Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance and the captive cervid program. Gabe is from the small town of Rutland, in southeastern Ohio.

He received his bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University and is currently working on a Master's in Biology at EKU. He enjoys hiking, fishing, and hunting, especially bow and waterfowl hunting. He will be working out of the Frankfort office.

Pam Miller came onboard Sept 4 as Purchasing Agent I in Adm Services. Pam comes from EPPC/Dept of Labor with 13 years of state government experience. Pam will handle uniform contracting, act as agency records retention lead, & perform various procurement functions. She will be working in the Frankfort office.

Betty Lewis is a new CEPL in the Information & Education Division. Betty comes to us from the Aquatic Ed Program where she was an interim working with Marc Johnson. Betty will work in Clinton, Laurel, McCracken, Pulaski, Russell, Wayne and Whitley counties.

The Fisheries Division recently hired Nathan Cochran as a Fisheries Biologist II at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery. Nathan was born in Paducah, KY and raised in Mayfield, KY where he graduated from Graves County High School. Nathan has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agriculture from Murray State University and is in the process of completing an M.S. degree in Aquaculture from Kentucky State University.

While at Kentucky State, Nathan worked on largemouth bass nutrition. Nathan's outdoor interests include both hunting and fishing. The next time you are at the Pfeiffer Fish hatchery, please welcome Nathan to the Department.

## 5th District officers arrest 2 for illegal musseling in Licking River, seize 2,600 pounds of shells



Officer Mickey Craig loaded 38 bags of illegally harvested mussels into inflatable rafts last week.

Fifth District conservation officers arrested two western Kentucky men on the Licking River near Morningview at about 2 a.m. on September 11 and charged each with four counts of illegally taking mussels.

Donnie R. Declue, Jr., 40, of Gilbertsville, and Albert L. Harper, 47, of Benton, were arrested and lodged in the Campbell County jail charged with taking mussels from the river without a license, by illegal means, during illegal hours and in illegal waters.

Harper pleaded guilty in Campbell District Court and was ordered to pay \$650 in fines and costs and given 180 days in jail. Declue pleaded not guilty and was



assigned a September 25 court date.

Officers Lt. Bobby Newman, Sgt. Greg Davis, Mickey Craig, Scott Horn, Pat Brannen and Chris Fossett seized 38 bags of mussels containing 25-35 shells and weighing an average of 70 pounds each, two rubber 8-foot air rafts, three scuba tanks, two 2-way radios, an air pump, tote bag, wet suit, air regulator, wrist watch and duffle bag of other miscellaneous items.





Graduating Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision were Lt. Greg Noel, Lt. Stuart Bryant and Sgt. Joe Mills. They were joined at the graduation by Deputy Commissioner Hank Patton and Colonel Bob Milligan.

### 3 KDFWR Conservation Officers among graduates of DOCJT Academy of Police Supervision

Three Kentucky Conservation Officers joined law enforcement officers from 16 agencies across the commonwealth at a graduation ceremony last month for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Lt. Greg Noel of Union County, Stuart Bryant of McCreary County and Joe Mills of Hart County were among 20 to complete APS, also called the sergeant's academy. The class is a three-week, 120-hour training program targeted for newly promoted sergeants or officers who are on their agency's promotion list to become sergeants.

While in APS, students participate in classes focusing on the role of a supervisor, as well as leadership, resolving conflict, managing diversity, monitoring officer performance, professional image, legal issues for supervisors, ethics, interpersonal communication, effective written communication, making decisions, solving problems, managing critical incidents, public

speaking, emotional survival, budgeting, media relations and others.

The program includes reading and writing assignments and scenario-based exercises designed to enhance the students' ability to perform at the supervisor level in their agencies. APS is hands-on, with as much skill demonstration as classroom work.

The graduating class is the 23rd to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Commissioner Greg Howard of Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Howard gave the graduates leadership advice, sharing with them the 10 actions that he said had worked for him in leadership positions. His suggestions included:

- Know what is going on in the lives of the people you supervise and show interest, such as calling or visiting them when they have a baby or are sick. This behavior motivates people, and a leader's job is to motivate people.
- Don't have a personal agenda, meaning

don't seek credit for accomplishments at your agency. Be humble about your work. Remember that the people you supervise are doing a lot of that work.

- Live a life of integrity. Put your priorities in this order: faith, family, friends, work, giving work your all when you are there. If the first three priorities are in order, work and other items will fall into place.
- Seek career development/education. They won't necessarily make you a better officer, but they will broaden your horizons and give you opportunities.
- Be a spark for the people you supervise, inspiring them with your happiness.
- Dedicate yourself to being healthy. This not only involves working out, but also what you eat, read and

how you decompress. It's impossible for officers to properly do their jobs if they are out of shape.

APS is a stepping stone to the Department of Criminal Justice Training's Criminal Justice Executive Development program, which is a five-week advanced leadership course offered once a year for supervisors at Kentucky's small and medium-size law enforcement agencies. Potential CJED students must rank sergeant or above and be selected by a committee to take part in the course.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. The agency is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and was the first accredited public safety-training program in the nation. In 2006, the academy also became the first law enforcement-training academy in the nation to be designated as a CALEA flagship agency.

## KDFWR aquatic habitat restoration project proposal



Buck Creek in straightened section showing slumping bank, sediment deposits and absence of riffle pool formation.

KDFWR's Division of Fisheries has secured a competitive grant from the National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI)

through the Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP).

The funding will be used to supple-

ment a large stream and wetland restoration project on Buck Creek in Pulaski County that will restore 6,000 to 8,000 feet of streams and up to 65 acres of wetlands.

The project will involve numerous partners in addition to KDFWR: The Nature Conservancy, the In-lieu Fee Stream & Wetland Mitigation Fund (KRS 150.255), the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the KY Transportation Cabinet, the Federal Highways Administration, the Pulaski County Conservation District, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Nature Conservancy currently owns the land and is working to place the project property in public ownership with Pulaski County. Public access is expected to be available after the project is completed and ownership is transferred.

Buck Creek is within the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' State Wildlife Action Plan (KSWAP) Tier I and Tier II conservation

**See "Restoration," page 7.**



### Wayne Davis 1953-2007

Wayne Davis, former Environmental Section Chief, passed away unexpectedly in his home on September 21, 2007.

Born September 29, 1953 in Rock Island, IL, he was the son of Henry and Virginia Davis. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, his children, Dawn and Bill, and two sisters, Kay and Barb.

Wayne began working for the Department in 1980 as a wildlife biologist for the Environmental Section. He spent much of his time in the field monitoring the activities of coal mining and other industries to insure the quality of Kentucky's fishery resources.

As time passed, the Environmental Section increased in size to the point where Wayne spent most of his time with administrative duties. He still found time to get out in the field, particularly when urgent help was needed for fish kills and other emergencies.

Wayne had the tenacity of a bulldog when the natural resources of the state

were at risk and did not mince words when confronted with political obstacles. He was equally at home with wildlife and fisheries personnel, which served him well in his position as Environmental Section Chief. He was instrumental in developing new programs to protect and enhance the water resources in the state.

Upon his retirement from the department in 2004, Wayne continued his life of community service by becoming a Mercer County emergency response coordinator. As such, he was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and always ready to lend a hand in times of trouble.

Retirement also allowed Wayne the opportunity to coach the Mercer County baseball team full-time.

Wayne was a tireless advocate for the natural resources of the state and a good friend to us all. He will be missed.





## Lake Malone encroachment on state-owned buffer increasing

Shoreline encroachment issues on the state-owned 50-foot buffer surrounding Lake Malone have increased the past several years.

The shoreline topography of much of Lake Malone is steep and rocky with some areas of vertical or near vertical cliffs. As the land around Lake Malone was developed, residential lots with gently sloping shorelines and easy lake access were developed first leaving those lots with a steeper terrain to be developed more recently.

Much of the recent shoreline encroachment at Lake Malone involves elaborate staircases with decks and landings that property owners believe are necessary to access the lake or their boat dock.

Additional shoreline encroachment

problems include ornamental landscaping, jet ski and boat "slides", tree cutting, and construction of gazebos and other structures on state property. All of these activities are prohibited by current regulations.

Landowners with lake front property adjoining the state-owned 50-foot buffer zone are allowed one boat dock. These docks are permitted for 5-year periods with the current period expiring in December 2007.

In preparing for the next permit period beginning January 2008, the Fisheries Division is re-evaluating boat dock regulations as well as those regulations pertaining to shoreline development.

Any new regulations will affect boat docks and shoreline encroachment issues

at all state-owned lakes. Lake Malone is the largest of all state-owned/managed lakes and has by far more boat docks and lake front lots than any other lake.

A public meeting was held in August at Lewisburg Elementary School to solicit public input regarding potential regulatory changes. Approximately 280 people attended the meeting, most of whom were owners of lake front lots. Fisheries Division Director Benjy Kinman presented a Power Point presentation of violations at Lake Malone and other lakes and explained to those attending the meeting the Department's desire to keep the shore-

line in as natural a condition as possible. Attendees offered many opinions and suggestions for future regulations. These suggestions were summarize and mailed to those attending the meeting.

The Fisheries Division is attempting to develop a shoreline management plan similar to the Army Corps of Engineers shoreline plan for Corps owned lakes. The proposed new regulations will be submitted to the public for comment and to the Commission members for approval. New regulations should go into effect January 1, 2008.

## Kentucky Afield TV And now a word from our sponsor...

By Charlie Baglan

"Kentucky Afield" TV has just inked a deal with Sportsman's Warehouse in Lexington to underwrite the show. A thriving retail chain for hunting and fishing in the western states, Sportsman's Warehouse opened its first Kentucky store this summer. The company believes that delivering its message to our viewers will deliver success for everyone involved.

What I like about 'Kentucky Afield' is what everybody likes," says Ben Bodmer, store manager. "Tim Farmer and the crew feature average men, women, and families fishing, hunting, and having a ball. These are the people we meet everyday in our store so I know our association with this program is a perfect match."

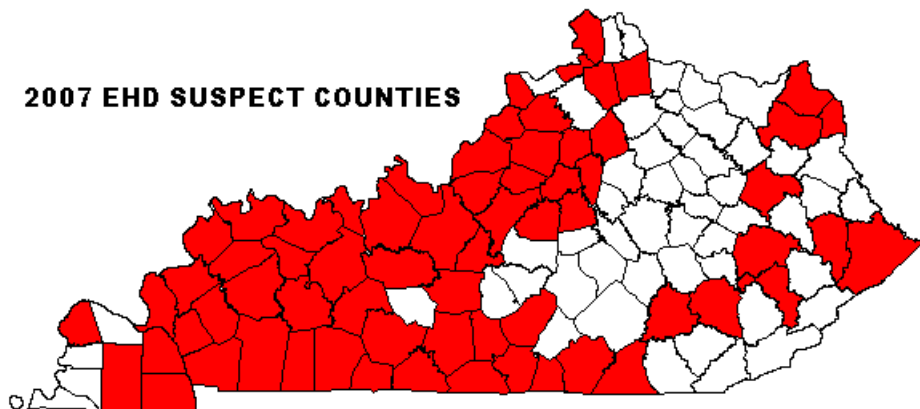
"This isn't the first shot we've taken at generating new revenues," says Scott Moore, Executive Producer. "Last September, the show began selling specialty DVDs online. We get orders every day. That's added up to \$40,000 so far."

Once Kentucky Afield started airing within commercial TV markets, it made good fiscal sense to sell advertising on the show. A year later, that idea became part of the Department's Strategic plan. With a lot of hard work from many in I&E, including the magazine staff, we found our first sponsor.

Sportsman's Warehouse is the first of three such sponsorships planned. "With a world class television show like ours, attracting advertisers is easy," says Chad Miles, fund raiser with the commissioner's office. Miles has been in talks with two other potential sponsors.

Stay tuned.

**2007 EHD SUSPECT COUNTIES**



## Hemorrhagic Disease (HD) in Kentucky

"Hemorrhagic disease" includes blue tongue disease of livestock and epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) which primarily affects white-tailed deer.

Hemorrhagic disease in deer is often called "blue tongue" because of the characteristic swollen tongue, but EHD is caused by a different virus and seldom affects livestock. HD is transmitted among deer by biting midges, also called gnats or no-see-ums. It cannot be transmitted to humans or pets, and deer carcasses may be disposed of without special precautions.

HD occurs in 2 forms – acute and chronic. Deer suffering from the acute form often have a swollen jaw and tongue, tend to stay close to water, and lose their normal fear of humans and dogs. Death occurs in 1-3 days, so carcasses often look healthy and are usually found near or in water.

Deer that survive suffer damage to their hooves, mouth, and rumen. These deer may never fully recover and may be malnourished. Many deer survive this chronic form just fine, and the only evidence hunters will see that they were ill is the characteristic hoof-sloughing.

This year's HD outbreak is more widespread than outbreaks seen in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. As of September 6, 2007, approximately 1,100 cases (about 1% of Kentucky's total deer herd, estimated at

1,000,000 deer) have been reported from 33 counties all across the state.

### How Many Deer Will Be Lost?

HD occurs frequently, but its severity and distribution are highly variable. Past occurrences have ranged from a few scattered mild cases every other year to dramatic widespread outbreaks every 5 to 7 years as in 1997, 2002 and 2003.

Death rates are usually well below 25 percent of the population, but in a few instances, have been 50 percent or more. However, no deer population has ever been wiped out by HD.

Research in the Georgia Piedmont indicates that trends in deer harvests are closely related to HD activity and that outbreaks tend to be on a 3 to 4 year cycle.

### What Is The "Hoof Disease" That I Hear Deer Hunters Talk About Related To HD?

As noted above, many deer survive HD infections. In these surviving deer, the fever at the onset of the disease often causes growth interruptions in the hooves and later peeling or sloughing of the hoof walls. If a deer has sloughing/splitting hooves on two or more feet during Kentucky's general firearms deer season, it is likely that it had HD a couple of months earlier.

**See "HD," page 8.**



## Lake Cumberland “Step Outside”



KDFWR hosted the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources for a “Step Outside” event September 11 below the dam at Lake Cumberland. Legislators and others caught fish, shot rifles, pistols, shotguns and bows, and then feasted at a fish fry. Dave Frederick helped Kristen Meadors break clay targets (top photo); Sarah McCann challenged Rep. Mike Cherry at the rifle range as officers Jim Delk and Sharkey Stonewall watched (above); and Frederick gave Administrative Services Director Darin Moore some shotgun pointers (at left).

### “Restoration,” continued

areas in the Cumberland River basin. It serves as habitat for numerous imperiled and federally listed species.

Channelization of streams has been listed as a threat to Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in KSWAP and has caused significant impacts to Buck Creek in the project area. Approximately 1.3 miles of Buck Creek mainstem and more than 3,000 feet of two tributary streams within the project area have been channelized resulting in the elimination of good, quality stream habitat and sedimentation of downstream habitats. Adjacent wetlands have been drained as part of this manipulation.

Species in KSWAP expected to benefit from the project include: mountain brook lamprey, ashy darter, Cumberlandian combshell mussel, oyster mussel, littlewing pearly mussel, Tennessee clubshell, fluted kidneyshell mussel, purple lilliput mussel, little spectaclecase mussel, Cumberland bean pearly mussel.

The SARP grant will be used to collect data for physical parameters of habitats where the SGCN are known to currently exist in their healthiest populations. This information will then be used to restore habitats specifically benefiting these species.

Buck Creek provides a high quality fishery and is listed in KDFWR’s, “Stream Smallmouth” publication as one of Kentucky’s leading smallmouth bass streams. This publication provides a list of Kentucky’s foremost smallmouth fishing streams based on field data, angler comments, and fish populations but not on accessibility.

Fish available to anglers in Buck Creek include: largemouth and smallmouth bass, spotted bass, rock bass, and channel catfish.

The project will improve the fish habitat by restoring the series of riffle-pool habitats that were formerly present in this reach of Buck Creek.



**"HD," continued****Was The HD Outbreak Caused By Overpopulation?**

High-density deer herds may have higher mortality rates; however, the relationship of deer density to severity of HD is not clear-cut. The number of deer that are immune, the severity of the virus, the number of livestock nearby, or the abundance of midges may influence the scope of an outbreak regardless of deer density.

**Are Livestock Affected?**

The significance of EHD and bluetongue viruses to livestock is more difficult to assess. Most bluetongue virus infections in cattle are silent; however, a small percentage of animals can develop lameness, sore mouths, and reproductive problems.

Cattle can be short-term bluetongue virus carriers. Less is known about EHD in cattle. EHD virus has been isolated from sick cattle, and surveys have shown that cattle often have antibodies to this virus, indicating frequent exposure.

For domestic sheep the situation is more straightforward. Sheep are generally unaffected by EHD, but bluetongue can be a serious disease similar to that in deer.

**Will Livestock Become Infected From Deer?**

Simultaneous infections sometimes occur in deer, cattle, and sheep. Discovery of illness in deer indicates that infected biting midges are present in the vicinity, and, thus, both deer and livestock are at risk of infection. Once virus activity begins, both livestock and deer potentially serve to fuel an outbreak; however, the spread of disease from deer to livestock, or vice versa, has not been proven. Furthermore, deer have not been shown to be long-term carriers for EHD or bluetongue viruses.

**Will HD recur?**

Yes. HD is common and occurs at some level nearly every year in Kentucky. The western and south-central areas of the

**Getting familiar with the new .40**

Law Enforcement Division is continuing its transition from the Smith & Wesson .45 caliber Model 4566 to the Smith & Wesson .40 caliber M&P 40. The transition requires intensive training and familiarization with the new pistol and its retention holster. Firearms trainers Scott Barrow, Rick Melbauer and Lt. Larry Estes watch officers on the firing line early this month at the Northeast Fish and Game Club range (top photo). Lt. Estes reviewed features of the new pistol with Sgt. Phillip Whitley (at right).



state tend to show more consistent HD activity than northern and southeastern portions.

**Can People Become Infected with HD?**

No. Humans are not at risk by handling infected deer, eating venison from infected deer, or being bitten by infected midges. However, it is always advisable to not consume visibly ill deer or those that are behaving abnormally.

**What Can Be Done To Prevent HD?**

At present there is little that can be

done to prevent or control HD. As with most diseases and parasites of white-tailed deer, impacts will be minimized in deer herds that are maintained at moderate to low densities.

The best and only practical means of regulating deer populations is through recreational deer hunting, including the harvest of antlerless deer. Although die-offs of deer due to HD often cause alarm, past experiences have shown that mortality will not decimate local deer populations and the outbreak will be curtailed by the onset of cold weather.